

REMARKS

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of this application. In view of this amendment, this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment. New claim 11 is supported by claims 9 and 10. Support for new claim 12 is found in claims 1, 2, and 6. New claim 13 is supported by claim 7. Support for new claim 14 is found in claim 8. Claims 1, 3, and 9 provide support for new claim 15. New claim 16 is supported by claim 4. Support for new claim 17 is found in claim 5. Claim 10 provides support for new claim 18.

Claims 1 and 11-18 are pending in this application. Claims 2-10 have been canceled. New claims 11-18 have been added.

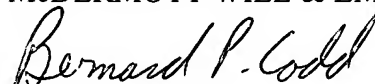
In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Application No.: 10/562,438

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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